

# Forbidden Dance™

TOKYOPOP®



2

Hinako Ashihara

# Forbidden Dance

Volume 2

Written and Illustrated by  
Hinako Ashihara



Los Angeles • Tokyo • London



Translator - Takao Brewer  
English Adaptation - Taita Ford  
Contributing Editor - Jodi Bryson  
Research and Lettering - Jan Munn  
Cover Layout - Aaron Suhr  
Graphic Designer - James Lee

Editor - Julie Taylor  
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney  
Production Coordinator - Antonio DuPinto  
Production Manager - Jennifer Miller  
Art Director - Matt Alford  
Editorial Director - Jeremy Ross  
VP of Production - Ron Karsant  
President & C.O.O. - John Parker  
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: [editor@TOKYOPOP.com](mailto:editor@TOKYOPOP.com)  
Come visit us online at [www.TOKYOPOP.com](http://www.TOKYOPOP.com)

A  TOKYOPOP Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc.  
3280 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

© 1994 SHOGakukan. All Rights Reserved.  
First published in Japan in 1994 by SHOGakukan Inc. Tokyo  
English publication rights arranged through SHOGakukan Inc.

English text copyright ©2003 TOKYOPOP Inc.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or  
transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission  
from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction.  
Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons,  
living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN-1-59182-346-3

First TOKYOPOP printing October 2003

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

# 天使のキス

## ANGEL KISS



## FORBIDDEN DANCE 2

### CONTENTS

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Angel Kiss .....                   | 7   |
| Losing Weight through Ballet ..... | 174 |
| My Trip to England .....           | 188 |



**AYA RUI**  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT  
SHE HAS BEEN TRAINING IN  
CLASSICAL BALLET SINCE  
SHE WAS VERY YOUNG



**AKIRA HEIYA**  
LEADER OF THE ALL-  
MALE DANCE TROUPE  
"COOL"



**NACHAN**  
AYA'S "BEST FRIEND"  
NACHAN IS TREASURE OF  
AYA'S DANCING TALENT.

### STORY

AYA IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO LOVES BALLET. AT A BALLET COMPETITION, SHE DANCED HER FOOT IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE AND DEVELOPED A MOVED REAR OF DANCING ON THE STAGE. SHE QUIT DANCING BECAUSE OF HER NOW ACUTE STAGE FRIGHT. ONE DAY, AYA SEES A BALLET PERFORMANCE BY THE DANCE TROUPE COOL AND BECOMES DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY AKIRA'S STYLE OF DANCING. THIS IMPRESSES AYA TO START DANCING AGAIN. AYA WANTS NOTHING MORE THAN TO DANCE WITH AKIRA, AND ASKS AKIRA TO LET HER JOIN COOL. AKIRA TELLS AYA THAT HE WILL ALLOW HER TO JOIN COOL ONLY IF SHE WINS FIRST PLACE AT THE NATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION. NOW AYA IS MORE SERIOUS ABOUT HER TRAINING THAN EVER BEFORE, BUT AYA EARLYLY JUDGES THE FAVORABLE SOUND AT THE COMPETITION WHEN A JUDGE INTERRUPTS HER PERFORMANCE BECAUSE HE HATES AYA'S ATHLETIC STYLE OF DANCING. THEN, ON THE DAY OF THE FINALS, SHE LEARNS THAT HER FRIEND NACHAN IS MISSING. AYA LEAVES THE COMPETITION SITE TO HELP NACHAN'S MOTHER LOOK FOR HER. AYA DISCOVERS NACHAN AT HIS OLD BALLET SCHOOL, AND DISCOVERS THAT NACHAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING THE GLASS IN HER BALLET SHOES. IT WASN'T AYA'S RIVAL, YOSHIKI, AFTER ALL. NACHAN THEN THREATENS TO KILL HERSELF TO PREVENT AYA FROM RETURNING TO THE COMPETITION. WHAT WILL AYA DO?

AND NOW THAT YOU KNOW, I WON'T LET YOU GO BACK TO THE COMPETITION.

I AM THE ONE WHO PUT THE PIECES OF GLASS IN YOUR SHOES.

IF YOU STEP OUT OF THIS ROOM...

...I WILL JUMP OUT OF THE WINDOW. MY DEATH WILL BE YOUR FAULT.

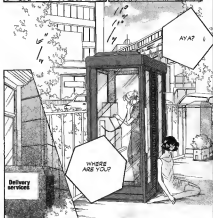
—♦— Naoharu —♦— Age 17

She seems to be crazy with jealousy of Ayaka's talent. She puts pieces of glass in her best friend's shoes. It sure sounds like an old-fashioned way of sabotaging a ballet dancer, but I decided to use it anyway. It's a "ballet" story, after all.















I TOOK IT  
OUT ON  
AYA AND...

...PUT  
PIECES OF  
GLASS IN  
HER SHOES!



IT'S  
NOBODY'S  
FAULT BUT  
MINE THAT I  
CAN'T SCORE  
A LEADING  
ROLE...

...BECAUSE  
I... I'M NOT  
TALENTED!



TEAH,  
WELL, WHY  
DON'T YOU  
TELL ALL  
THAT TO  
AYA?

WHAT A  
WICKED  
THING TO  
DO TO A  
FRIEND!

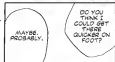


UGH,

UGH,

I'M SO  
AWFUL  
TO AYA...

I...



Hi everyone! This is Akshara. Thank you for reading *Forbidden Dance* volume 2, which is my seventh book! *Forbidden Dance* was supposed to be a 20-episode series, but it ended up being much longer. I'm surprised that it's taking long enough to publish volume 2! I am so happy about that! I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who has been helping me



When I started *Forbidden Dance*, I was at a loss for what to do because I had no knowledge of ballet. There is still much to learn! But I'm doing a lot of research and trying my best to make this series cool for you. Cheers, bye!



KNOWING HER, SHE CHICKENED OUT.



I AM SO NERVOUS, TOO.



NUMBER 52, AYA FUJI.

IS AYA FUJI PRESENT?



I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER.













わん



I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE KEEPS DANCING LIKE THAT!

LOOK AT HER SWEAT!

She's really happy!



I AM SO GLAD THAT I DIDN'T QUIT DANCING.



I MET ANITA.

NUMBER 52, AYA FUJI.

ALDORA'S VARIATION FROM "SLEEPING BEAUTY."

I FEEL SO FREE, SO  
FREE, SO  
MYSELF,  
WHEN I  
DANCE.



SOMETIMES  
I FEEL LIKE  
CRYING.

IT'S  
NOT  
THAT  
EASY...

...TO  
KEEP  
DANCING.

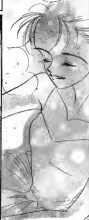
IT'S  
AS HARD  
AS FELLING...

BALLET IS  
WORTH ALL  
THIS WORK.

ACTUALLY  
I LOOK KINDA  
COOL WHEN  
I AM PUSHING  
MYSELF TO  
THE LIMIT.

...BUT  
MAGICAL  
AT THE  
SAME TIME...









ANY BODY  
IS MOVING  
SO FAST!

IT  
FEELS  
LIKE  
I HAVE  
WINGS!



I'VE  
NEVER...

...DANCED  
WITH SUCH  
SENSUAL  
PLEASURE  
BEFORE.

◆ Rumiya Yoshino ◆ age 17

*Yoshino is Ayu's talented and undeniably rival. She's the kind of girl who would look better in modern than classic ballet. She's very competitive and stubborn, but honest. She's very much an athletic dancer, and pushes Ayu to be better.*















# Ashihara's Diary

◆ No. 2 ◆

Since I was very shy when I started to ballet, my chief teacher took me to a lot of ballet performances.



I also went to see a lot of performances by myself. I've seen performances by Matsuyama Ballet, Bolshoi, Royal, Leningrad, Prokofiev, and Alvin Ailey just to name a few. I also saw Tetsuya Kumakawa's performances. He is one of the most popular Japanese male dancers today. Also, I see anything—in, classical, modern, whatever. I've even seen flamenco dance. It's not ballet, but anyway. I. Some might say all types of ballet are just ballet, but even I can see that each performance is totally unique.

To be continued in  
- Act 3 -



MISS MACHIDA TOLD ME THAT I HAVE TOO STRONG A PERSONALITY. THAT I HADN'T CUT OUT TO DANCE LEADING ROLES.

WHEN I WAS TWELVE...

I WORKED HARD TO BE A "PERFECT" DANCER.



BUT I COULDN'T IMPRESS MISS MACHIDA, EVEN THOUGH YOU ALWAYS DOKE LADDER PERSONAL.

YOU DON'T THINK YOU JUST DANCE. I HATE YOU FOR THAT.



I BECAME THE BEST, BETTER THAN YOU... TECHNICALLY. I BECAME THE BEST TEXTBOOK DANCER.



I TRAIL TOO HARD TO BE IN YOUR SHADOW.



MS. GRACEFUL.

ARE YOU LEAVING? DON'T YOU WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE WINNERS ARE ANNOUNCED?



I RESPECT WHAT YOU DO BUT I THOUGHT YOU TOLD EVERYONE YOU WOULD LEAVE MACHIDA BALLETS SCHOOL IF YOU DIDN'T BEAT ME TONIGHT.



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN AFTER DANCING AS I JUST DID.



MS. GRACEFUL, I'M LEAVING SCHOOL ANYWAY.







IN THIRD PLACE...

...NUMBER 85, KUMI HORIE!

IF I WIN, I'M GOING STRAIGHT TO AKIRA...



I CAN'T NOT GO TO HIM...

IN SECOND PLACE...

...NUMBER 23, NORIKO TAKADA



WE ARE ABOUT TO...



Don't be afraid, I can't miss this!

Don't be afraid!

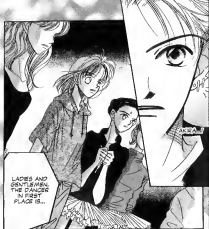
AKIRA DIDN'T SHOW UP.



Ballet Concours - FINAL

WE ARE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS OF...

...THE NATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION!



わあ

NUMBER 52,  
AYA FUJI!















DIANA ROBERTS!

THE LEADING DANCER IS THE ONE AND THE ONLY...



I know you would say that.

HELLO, PERFECT-IONE OKAY, NOW I WANNA GO.



These tickets are going to be helpful, right?

Any ticket is useful, it's the person who uses it.



WELL... IT'S CLASSIC, ISN'T IT? SOUNDS GOOD, BUT...

YOU WANNA GO CHECK 'EM OUT?

THEY'RE COMING HERE ON A TOUR SOON.

BRITISH REGENTS BALLET?



GUESS WHAT, YAMANE?

TSK, TSK, TSK.

EVEN THE SEATS COST MAJOR BANK... I DON'T THINK I CAN AFFORD IT.

BEHOLD, WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING TO SEE CLASSIC BALLET WITH A GUY?

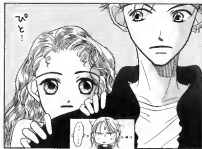
◆ Diana Roberts ◆ Age 17

A fair beauty with silky white porcelain skin. I aim to develop calculated and stereotyped that she is my ultimate image of the "babe". That's why I tend to draw a ballet dancer like her in my story. She speaks fluent Japanese. Is that because I can't speak English? Pardon me!



















It's interesting to see how each ballet group is different, even if they all do classic ballet. For example, each ballet group does "Swan Lake" in their own way and gives a different impression. I am sure each viewer also interprets the same ballet differently. To be honest, I am not an expert of ballet yet, and sometimes feel bored and sleepy in the middle of the performance. I often find out that some critics write raps about the scenes I found boring! When that happens, I tend to think "too boring!" But I've learned how to appreciate ballet differently by reading the reviews. Ballet is an art and it's only natural that each person has her own unique way of interpreting it. Although I might not have a deep understanding, I realized that it's okay to enjoy ballet in my own way.



I HAVE TO REARRANGE THE ENTIRE THING.

CAN YOU TRAIN LONGER HOURS STARTING TODAY?



I'M GOING TO DANCE WITH AKIRA!

I'M READY TO TRAIN.

WHAT-EVER YOU SAY!



FINALLY! AKIRA AND ME! ON THE STAGE!



IT'S A BRIEF PLAN FOR COOL'S ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE.

YOU'LL BE JOINING THE COOL'S BALLET IN THE OPENING AND THE STANDARD NUMBER...

...AND A SMALL PART IN THE ENCORE SEQUENCE.



THIS IS...



IT WON'T BE AS EASY AS YOU THINK, DANCER GIRL.

FOR ONE, YOU'LL STAND OUT BEING THE ONLY GIRL MEMBER.



ONLY IF YOU START SHOWING SOME FOCUS.

PERFORMANCE! YOU'RE GOING TO LET US ON STAGE!

















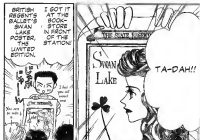


✦ He Lives

✦ Age 42

He makes frequent appearances in the series. I should have named him with a more elaborate name. It doesn't really matter now. He teaches at the British Regency Ballet School. He is a blond guy who, again, speaks fluent Japanese (what am I thinking?)













TELL  
HIM TO  
COME  
SEE ME  
SOMETIME.



IT'S  
HARD TO  
IMAGINE...

SHE  
PRACTICES  
TWICE AS  
MUCH AS THE  
OTHERS. SHE  
SEEMS, WELL,  
OBSESSED.



THE PRETTY  
FACE IS  
THROWING  
LOOKS AT  
OTHERS..

I'M SURE  
SHE'S VERY  
NERVOUS  
ABOUT THE  
PERFORMANCE,  
BUT THAT'S  
TOO MUCH!

Practice Room





Soon after I began to write *Forbidden Dance* and started to feel that I became familiar with ballet, I took my sister to see Royal Ballet's "Der Schwan." I enjoyed seeing how my sister reacted through the rare experience more than my ballet performance itself. First, she was surprised to find at the lady who was dressed up in a formal dress.





SHE TOLD ME BALLET IS EVERYTHING TO HER...

...AND SHE NEEDS NOTHING ELSE.



A TOP DANCER LIKE DIANA IS ONE IN A MILLION.

SHE PAID A HIGH PRICE TO BE THAT SUCCESSFUL. MADE A LOT OF SACRIFICES IN HER LIFE.



ARE YOU LIKE HER, AKIRA?



NOT ANYMORE?

OTHERWISE, I WOULD NOT HAVE LET SOMEONE LIKE YOU JOIN US, AYA.

I USED TO BE... BUT...



TELL ME, AKIRA...



NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. I'M ON A FIELD TRIP, YEAH!

OH, I ...

AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN SO FAR?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DANCER GIRL? SKIPPING THE PRACTICE SESSION?

AKIRA...



IT'S NOT LIKE MANY OF THE JAPANESE BALLET SCHOOLS WHERE PEOPLE PRACTICE BALLET AS A HOBBY. I SUPPOSE. NOT ALL JAPANESE BALLET SCHOOLS ARE LIKE THAT BUT FLUSH ARE.

THEY ARE WELL-TRAINED, PROFESSIONAL DANCERS.



THOSE WHO PASS THE AUDITION ARE SCREENED IN ANOTHER ROUND. ONCE THEY'RE IN, THEY PRACTICE DAY IN, DAY OUT.

TO ENTER SEPARATELY YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH AN AUDITION THAT ONLY THE BEST STUDENTS WILL PASS.



WHAT IS REGENT'S BALLET SCHOOL LIKE?

AM I SO OUT-MATCHED COMPARED TO THE DANCERS IN REGENT'S?













TO THE LADIES ROOM!

AHA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



I CAN'T STAND HOW AWESOME DIANA IS!



NEXT IS ACT 2.

DIANA ROBERTS' HIGHEST POINT!



Why don't I...



SHE CAN'T DO THE FOURTIES WITH THAT ANGLE.



NO WAY CAN SHE PULL IT OFF!



FOR HER, THE INFAMOUS 32 TURNS IS NOTHING BUT A PIECE OF CAKE. DIANA IS NO COMMON DANCER...

THE FAMOUS, BLACK SWAN'S 32 FOURTIES...





THEY CAN'T  
FIX MY  
ANKLE...



HOW  
CAN YOU  
MANAGE  
THE 32  
TURNS  
WITH THAT  
ANKLE?

THIS IS NOT  
JUST YOUR  
OWN BUSINESS  
WITH SO MANY  
PEOPLE  
INVOLVED,  
YOU KNOW!

YOU  
THINK I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
THAT?!



...EVEN  
WITH  
SURGERY...

MY  
DOCTOR  
TOLD  
ME...

...IT WILL  
NEVER BE  
THE WAY IT  
WAS.





WHY END IN  
DISASTER? I  
KNOW ABOUT  
THIS, DIANA!



LET THEM  
REMEMBER  
YOU FOR HOW  
YOU DANCED.  
NOT HOW YOU  
FELL DURING  
ACT 2.



PLEASE  
AYA...IT  
IS AYA,  
RIGHT?

LET ME  
DANCE...  
ONCE  
MORE ON  
STAGE.

THIS WILL BE  
MY LAST  
STAGE  
PERFORM-  
ANCE!



DIANA...

10 MINUTES  
TO CURTAIN.







THAT'S  
RIGHT!  
BUT I'LL  
THINK ABOUT  
THAT!

SO... YOU  
THINK YOU  
CAN DO  
THE DOLLS  
IN ACT 3?



IT'S  
NOT  
GONNA  
WORK...



MAY-  
BE  
NOT  
...



WE'LL BE IN  
TROUBLE  
IF THEY  
FIND OUT  
ABOUT  
THE SWITCH...

BUT...



AFTER  
ACT 2,  
YOU  
TAKE  
OVER.

YOU CAN AT  
LEAST HANDLE  
ACT 3 EVEN  
WITH THAT  
ANKLE.



...THAT  
WILL BE  
IT.

ONCE THEY  
KNOW ABOUT  
YOUR INJURY,  
YOU WILL  
NEVER BE  
ABLE TO  
DANCE ON  
THE STAGE  
AGAIN...



OKAY,  
MAYBE  
THAT'S  
BETTER.

WE ARE  
TALKING  
ABOUT THE  
GREAT  
ROBERT'S  
BALLET HERE.  
THEY WILL  
FIND YOU AN  
EXCELLENT  
REPLACEMENT.

BUT...



THIS CAN  
BE YOUR  
LAST  
CHANCE!

DON'T YOU  
WANT TO  
DANCE UNTIL  
THE END FOR...  
ANYTHING?!

DON'T YOU  
WANNA  
DANCE?!



PUT A LOT  
OF MAKEUP  
ON ME!

PUT MORE  
SO THAT  
THEY CAN'T  
TELL I'M  
NOT YOU.

Don't  
forget  
to  
put  
on  
the  
makeup!

LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN...

THOSE  
WHO ARE  
IN THE  
LOBBY...

WE  
DON'T  
HAVE  
TIME  
TO  
DEBATE  
IT.

Knock  
Knock

I KNOW!  
SHUT UP!

CHANA, IT'S  
TIME FOR  
YOU TO—

OH MY  
GOD, YES!  
I SAW  
YOUR  
REHEARSAL  
OVER AND  
OVER,  
PLUS I  
WATCHED  
ALL OF YOUR  
VIDEOS.

DO  
YOU KNOW  
ALL THE  
MOVEMENTS?

I told you  
to look  
for clues.

She's  
such a  
natural  
star.

I WONDER  
WHAT IVA IS  
DOING?

TAKES THAT  
ONE FOREVER  
TO ME.

# Ashihara's Diary

✦ No. 5 ✦

Because my sister  
had no interest in ballet,  
I was wondering if  
she would really enjoy  
the performance.  
But it turned out that  
she loved it very much.



I think you should enjoy  
ballet in your own way.  
After all, you gave a lot of  
money, so you've got to  
enjoy it. I think my sister  
enjoyed it three times as  
much as I did.



I recommend you go  
see a ballet at the  
Remember to sit back  
and enjoy the show.

✦✦✦

Time for me to stop writing.  
See you all in volume 6.

Bye-bye, Anko Ashihara



I WILL DEFINITELY DANCE THROUGH IT.



I AM EVEN MORE SERIOUS THAN  
WHEN I COMPLETED YOUR MARRIAGE

I CHECKED  
THE LOBBY,  
BUT  
MAYBE I  
SHOULD GO  
BACK TO  
LOOK FOR  
HER AGAIN.

AYA  
HASN'T  
BEEN  
BACK  
YET...

DON'T  
WORRY,  
SHE LAGS.



I DON'T  
CARE IF  
THEY FIND  
OUT!



I'LL  
DANCE  
FOR YOU.

I CAN  
FORGIVE  
YOU IF  
YOU MAKE  
MAJOR  
MISTAKES.  
SO  
PLEASE

...JUST  
SET  
ME TO  
ACT 3.



DANAU







OF COURSE  
THEY WILL FIND  
OUT I'M NOT  
DIANA...



HER  
DRESS  
COULD  
EASILY  
BE  
WELL  
BEYOND  
MY  
LEVEL.

I AM  
NOT  
DIANA  
ROBERTS.

NO  
MATTER  
HOW MUCH  
I TRY TO  
IMITE  
HER STYLE...



COME  
TO  
THINK  
OF IT...

SHE LOOKS  
KIND OF  
AMAZING  
AND  
COMPARED  
TO THE  
FIRST ACT,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK?



HEY!



I SAID, WHO IS  
THAT GIRL?!



WHO IS  
THAT?

WHAT?





WHO ARE YOU?



WHERE IS DIANA?

YOU HAVE  
NO BUSINESS  
BEING ON THE  
STAGE!



...FINISH  
HER CAREER  
ON STAGE  
IN ACT 3!



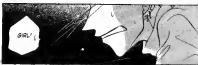
THIS IS NO  
JOKER...

SHE DID  
IT!

HEY!

WHAT  
SHALL WE  
DO NOW?









BY THE WAY,  
ACT 3 IS  
JUST ABOUT  
TO START.



WHAT'S GOING  
ON? WHO IS THAT  
GIRL?

WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?



EVERYONE,  
STAND BY!



ALL RIGHT,  
THEY LET'S  
TAKE CARE  
OF THE  
NEXT ACT.

BUT...



THEY CAN'T  
FIX HER ANGLE  
EVEN WITH  
SURGERY.

SHE WON'T  
BE ABLE TO  
DANCE AS  
SHE USED TO.  
SO...



WHERE DID  
THAT GIRL  
GO?

MORE  
IMPORTANTLY,  
WHERE IS DIANA?



I'M RIGHT HERE.

DIANA?









In the next volume  
et...

## Forbidden Dance

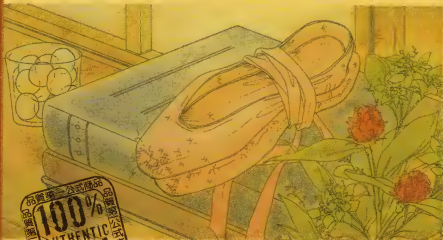
---

After Diana's fall, it's difficult to say if she'll ever dance again. In the meantime, COOL needs a sponsor for its upcoming anniversary performance. Mr. Harukichi Suehiro agrees to sponsor them on the condition that Aya not be in the performance. Akira agrees, but Aya has a harder time coming to terms with these conditions.



# Forbidden Dance™

Aya sneaks out of the all-important National Ballet Competition to look for her best friend Nachan. It's a race against the clock as Aya searches for her distraught friend while trying to get back in time for her own performance. But when Nachan threatens suicide, will Aya be able to tear herself away in time? The world of dance can make or break you, and dancers must find within themselves the will and the resolve to overcome any setback in order to make their dreams come true.



ISBN 1591823463

